

## SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting  
March 15, 2001  
2:00PM  
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mrs. Rosie Marie Berry, Mr. Robert C. Daniel, Dr. Barbara Everson, Sen. Mike Fair, Sen. Warren Giese, Dr. William Gummerson, Mrs. Susan Hoag, Mr. Alex Martin, Sen. John Matthews, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Robert Staton, Mrs. Lynn Thompson, Rep. Ronald Townsend, Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He congratulated Dr. Gummerson on the designation of Northwestern High School as a Palmetto's Finest winner.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of February 22 were approved as distributed.

III. Remarks from a Key Constituency

Mr. Barnet introduced Dr. Ralph Cain, Superintendent, Kershaw County Schools. Dr. Cain presented information to the EOC on Kershaw County Schools efforts to be a "top ten" school district. He outlined the district's strategic efforts to be competitive nationally including actions such as a ten-year facilities plan, incentives for high performance, the utilization of an alternative school for students experiencing academic problems, instruction based on learning styles, and other initiatives. Members asked questions for additional detail.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments:

- (1) Ratings Criteria for John de la Howe School: The Subcommittee recommends adoption of the criteria;
- (2) Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards: The Subcommittee reviewed a preliminary report on the criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards. Mr. Wilson summarized the technical issues and indicated that the Subcommittee would distribute the draft for public comment through April 20, 2001.
- (3) Recommendations regarding alternatives to retention: The Subcommittee presented the recommendations outlining a series of actions, including long-range actions. The Subcommittee recommended adoption of the Year 2001 activities (provisos detailing future studies and expansions of professional development programs). The only cost would be \$500,000 for expansion of the Reading Initiative to include kindergarten teachers. Mrs. Tenenbaum discussed the reading initiative. There were questions about the health issues and members noted the need for a response plan. Other discussion focused on Unsatisfactory Schools and the availability of alternative schools. Mr. Wilson noted the need and ideas for involvement of teacher preparation institutions. The recommendations for 2001 were adopted.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Staton reviewed the EIA budget as it has moved through the Ways and Means Committee and the House. Committee members discussed the limited funds available and the impact of revenue base reductions.

C. Parent Involvement

Mrs. Thompson addressed the report on Tax Credits as Business Incentives requested by the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act. The Subcommittee recommended adoption. The EOC concurred.

D. Public Awareness

The Subcommittee did not have a formal report although Mr. Smith provided information on the meetings with representatives of the state and urban chambers and the SC Manufacturer's Alliance.

E. Staff and Administration

Mr. Barnet informed the members about presentations to the Senate Education Committee and the State Board of Education. He moved Rep. Townsend from the Parental Involvement Subcommittee to the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee. He also informed members that a small plaque had been sent to former members.

Dr. Anderson referred members to her written report.

Mr. Barnet reminded members to send in their retreat forms.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.